



International Scholars Newsletter

Each quarter, our team will share immigration updates, tips, and event information for the international scholar community.

Important Tax Reminder

If you are in J-1 or J-2 status and have been present in the U.S during the 2022 calendar year, please review the "[Taxes](#)" tab on the ISS website for additional information regarding tax filing and deadlines. The Federal Tax deadline for the 2022 tax year is April 18, 2023, and the California State Tax Deadline for the 2022 tax year is April 18, 2023.

International Scholar Spotlight & Meet & Greet Guest Speaker



March Meet and Greet

Mark your calendar now for our next Meet & Greet event! Our special guest speaker will be Dr. Mitchell Masterson. A postdoctoral scholar in Molecular, Cell and Systems Biology, Dr. Masterson's work is in Steroid hormone signalling.

- **Date: Wednesday, March 29, 2023**
- **Time: 12:00 - 1:00 p.m.**
- **Location: HUB - Room 268**
- Lunch will be provided. Please join us!

1. Tell us a little bit about your background (before coming to UCR).

I studied my undergraduate degree in Biochemistry and my PhD in circadian biology both at the University of Nottingham in England. My PhD, while investigating circadian genes was primarily work involving using CRISPR-Cas9 to modify gene expression in cell lines although I was also able to do some studies using genetically modified mice investigating role of specific genes in circadian entrainment to light and food.

2. Why did you choose UCR to conduct your research and how has your experience been?

I was looking for a postdoc project that would interest me and while I'm not very adventurous and probably would have just looked for positions in the UK, my wife had spent a year in California in UCSB as part of her undergraduate studies and was very interested to go back so I included California in my job searches. I was lucky enough to find a lab with a project that interested me which would use my experience both in cell culture and mouse models. I'm very happy with my lab here and my PI has been super welcoming, and I've been pleasantly surprised by how competent my PhD had actually made me feeling like I was easily able to set myself up and start working on a project where the most recent work had been done pre-COVID by someone who was no longer in the lab.

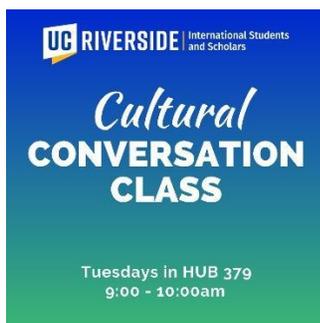
3. What are some of your favorite memories at UCR/Riverside?

We've been making the most of our time here and it's been great to explore some American nature, the sequoia trees are amazing and while camping up there we saw a bear! Which was exciting and pretty scary even though we were quite far away.

4. What have been some challenges that you have faced since coming to UCR (especially during the pandemic closures)?

My biggest challenges during the pandemic was getting my visa and flying! I was able to get special permission to fly but it delayed the whole visa process substantially and when our visas were approved me and my wife booked our flights, moved out of our apartment in Nottingham and flew that week! Fortunately by that point we were able to come into the buildings while remaining masked so after a week of isolation I was able to meet my lab in person. I found it a challenge adapting to living somewhere where I don't have a large network of friends (staying at the same University for 8 years will do that) as well as Riverside which is very different to British cities, feels more like a collection of towns but we've had some time to settle and are making the most of our time now and I'm glad to have met the new people I know here.

Upcoming ISS Events

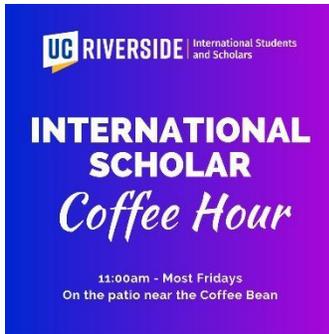


Cultural Conversation Class

Please join us for our weekly in-person Cultural Conversation Class! Candace Jorgensen leads this incredible class. Open to scholars and dependents.

- **Date: Tuesdays**
- **Time: 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**
- **Location: HUB - Room 379**
- Conversation topics change each week. We'd love to

see you at class on Tuesday!



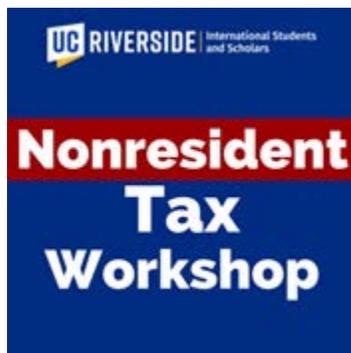
Scholar Coffee Hour

The Scholar Coffee Hour is a chance for you to socialize and meet scholars from across the university. Bring your own beverage and make new friends!

- **Date: Most Fridays**
- **Time: 11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.**
- **Location: Outside of Coffee Bean**
- This event is BYOB - Bring Your Own Beverage. You can also purchase beverages from the Coffee Bean. Cookies

will be provided by the ISS team.

Introduction to Non-Resident Federal Tax Filing in the U.S.: Glacier Tax Prep Overview



This workshop will give an introduction to non-resident tax filing obligations, Glacier Tax Prep (GTP) software, required tax forms, and important tax deadlines. Please keep in mind that the ISS office cannot advise on specific tax inquiries. This workshop may range from 1 hour to 1 hour 30 minutes depending on the Q&A section. Last Session Offered!

- **Date: Thursday, April 6**
- **Time: 3:30 p.m.**
- [Register on Zoom](#)

Register Now: International Affairs Recognition Awards



Help us celebrate UCR's international community. Light refreshments will be served.

- **Date: Thursday, April 20**
- **Time: 2:00 - 3:30 p.m.**
- **Location: HUB 302 North**
- [RSVP online](#)

Upcoming Holidays

UCR Student Spring Break - March 27-31

Spring Break for UCR students will be March 27-31, and UCR will be closed on Friday, March 31st.

César Chávez Day - Friday, March 31

Every March 31 since 2001, California celebrates César Chávez day. The holiday, which falls on Chávez's birthday, honors the visionary activist and organizer who fought tirelessly for farmworker rights. Chávez, alongside other union organizers, defended the rights of farmworkers by employing nonviolent organizing tactics, including a series of marches, national consumer boycotts, and fasts. His efforts resulted in much-needed legal protections for farmworkers and greater recognition of the dignity that all workers deserve.

Memorial Day - Monday, May 29

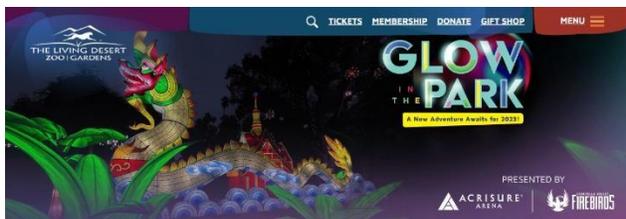
Memorial Day is observed on the last Monday of May to honor the men and women who have died while serving in the military. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings, and participating in parades. Unofficially, it marks the beginning of the summer season.

Juneteenth - Monday, June 19

Celebrated on the 19th of June, Juneteenth marks the day in 1865 when enslaved people in Texas learned they were free. This news was delivered two and a half years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation became law. Juneteenth has been marked with reverence and celebration by Black American communities long before its recent attainment of national recognition. Juneteenth offers a distinct occasion to acknowledge the linkages that connect our past to our present, while offering signposts for the future.

Things To Do

The Living Desert – GLOW IN THE PARK



Here we glow again! The wildly popular nighttime event, [Glow in the Park](#), returns to The Living Desert Zoo and Gardens this spring with a spectacular **new** lineup of hand-crafted lantern displays that represent wildlife from around the world— and even under

the sea!

When: Nightly, now through April 30, from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m

Location: 47900 Portola Avenue / Palm Desert, CA 92260

Tickets are \$17.95 - \$29.99, and children under 3 are free. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

106th Annual National Orange Show Fair



[The National Orange Show Fair](#) is annually held at the 120-acre NOS Event Center in San Bernardino, California. Over the years, it has evolved into one of the Inland Empire's premier shows hosting hundreds of

interim events. The National Orange Show Fair is a family-friendly event that offers something for everyone. The event features citrus, contests, trade shows, arts & crafts, rides, food, and much more. In 2023, the five-day National Orange Show Fair will be held from Wednesday, April 19 to Sunday, April 23.

When: April 19 - April 23

Location: National Orange Show Event Center, 689 South "E" Street, San Bernardino, CA 92408

[Tickets and more information here.](#)

Big Bear Camping and Hiking Weekend



Explore the trails of Big Bear before camping under the stars in the fresh pine-scented air! Transportation, leaders, meals during the trip, activity equipment and camping fees are included. This event is sponsored by [UC Riverside Recreation](#).

When: Saturday, May 20, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. until Sunday, May 21, 2023 at 6:00 p.m.

Location: Big Bear Lake, CA

Tickets are \$80 - \$88. [Purchase tickets here.](#)

California Citrus State Historic Park



Greeted by an old-fashioned roadside fruit stand, the "big orange, the [California Citrus State Historic Park](#) dedicates over half of 250 acres to what was once the universal symbol of California's role in agriculture – the citrus grove. The park recaptures the complexities of the time when "Citrus was King," exploring the significance of the citrus industry in Southern California.

Park Hours: April through September, the park is open

Monday to Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday and Sunday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Location: 9400 Dufferin Avenue Riverside, CA 92504

Cost: \$7 Parking fees are required (bring exact change)

[Learn more here](#) or call (951)780-6223

MetroLink \$10 All-day Weekends



Plan a day of exploration on any Saturday or Sunday and pay only \$10 for your all-day transportation on [Metrolink](#). Your MetroLink pass also offers [free connections](#) to many destinations, including in Los Angeles. New to Metrolink? [Learn how to ride here!](#)



FAQs for International Scholars

I need to leave the U.S. and ISS has not signed my DS-2019 document! Is that OK?

Please know that you do not need a travel signature on your DS-2019 document to either remain in or to depart the U.S. You do need a valid travel signature to return to the U.S. in J-1 status. A valid travel signature must be no more than twelve months old on the date that you return to the U.S.

If you are departing the U.S. soon and know that your travel signature will expire by the time you expect to return to the U.S., please contact an international scholar advisor at internationalscholars@ucr.edu. If your DS-2019 is going to expire soon, please consult with your department to extend your stay and then contact our scholar advisor.

What will happen if I end my UCR appointment early and/or I depart the United States and do not intend to return to the U.S. for my J program?

If you are a scholar and you depart the U.S. early (more than 15 days before your DS-2019 end date) and you do not intend to return to the U.S. for the remainder of your J program, please discuss this with your faculty sponsor. Please also email our advisor so that she can advise you on the steps and the visa implications of ending your program early.

Follow International Students and Scholars on [Instagram](#) to stay updated with our office and campus resources and events. You can keep up with International Affairs on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#).

Want to share your story as an international scholar? Fill out this [link](#) to have the chance to be featured!

Contact Our Staff

Thank you for being a part of the UCR International Scholar community. The best way to contact our staff is by email.

General email: internationalscholars@ucr.edu

Makbule Koksall - International Scholar Advisor:

makbule.koksall@ucr.edu

Amparo Rios - International Scholar Advisor:

amparo.rios@ucr.edu

Michael Schmelzle - Director: michael.schmelzle@ucr.edu



International Students
and Scholars

For Zoom meetings, please set up an appointment via email.

You can also call the general ISS phone number, (951) 827 - 4113. Our office is open Monday - Friday, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.